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*An Account of THREE METAL TRUMPETS, found  
in the County of Limerick, in the Year 1787. By RALPH  
OUSLEY, Esq; M. R. I. A. Communicated by JOSEPH  
COOPER WALKER, Esq; Secretary to the Committee of  
Antiquities.*

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AS every attempt to elucidate the antiquities of this country Read March 29, 1788. has of late been favourably received, the following short description of three uncommon musical instruments is with great deference offered to the Royal Irish Academy.

THESE trumpets were found by a peasant cutting turf in the bog of Carrick-O'Gunnell, county of Limerick, in the month of May, 1787, and by him sold to a brazier in the city of Limerick, who referred them for the present possessor. They are of a rich mixed metal, neither copper nor brass, but inclining rather to a copper colour. They resemble strongly those described in Walker's

Walker's Historical Memoirs of the Irish Bards, (page 109, Appendix) except in the middle piece, which differs from any I ever heard of, and is I believe an unique. This tube is 23 inches  $\frac{6}{10}$  long, of one entire piece, and has a loop in the centre to run a cord through. At each end it has four holes, corresponding to four in each trumpet, through which two pins or pegs fastened the instrument. Both trumpets were fixed on the middle piece like the joints of a German flute, when first found, and very firm with rust and dirt, but the pins were lost. I should imagine this tube was only to hang them up by. Doctor Fisher (a celebrated performer on the violin, and Doctor of music in the university of Oxford) who saw them with me in Limerick, conjectures Fig. I. and II. are *first* and *second*. The mouth or large end of Fig. II. is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter, being one inch wider than the other. Fig. III. is the Stoc or Stuic, a sort of speaking trumpet described by Colonel Vallancey in the Collectanea, No. XIII. page 46, and in Historical Memoirs of Irish Bards, page 83. The mouth-hole is oval,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches long by  $1\frac{1}{4}$  wide, and was cut across by the turf spade; but the other two and middle piece are in fine preservation. They are all ornamented with little conical teats or projections at each end, as in the drawing, viz. four at the small and six at the large ends, and four near each extremity of the middle piece. Fig. I. and Fig. III. have four holes at the wide ends, which seems as if some other tube was to be fastened occasionally within them, perhaps in the manner of Lord Drogheda's, described by Colonel Vallancey. It is natural to think there must have been mouth pieces for Fig. I. and II. but none were found with them, nor with

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with any others I believe in the kingdom, being made probably of perishable materials. The three trumpets and middle piece weigh 9 lb.  $11\frac{1}{2}$  oz. viz.

		lb.	oz.
Middle piece	- - -	1	11
Fig. I.	- - -	2	0
Fig. II.	- - -	2	$9\frac{1}{2}$
		6	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Fig. III.	- - -	3	7
		9	$11\frac{1}{2}$
			Avoirdupois.

A very curious brass spur-rowel, of 2 inches  $\frac{4}{5}$  diameter, and eight prongs or rays, was dug up with the trumpets, and is now in my possession.

*Willborough, near Castlerea,*

*August 15, 1787.*

RALPH OUSLEY.